

Lgcs 101: Historical Linguistics. Lecture Notes. Tues 13 Sept 2011.

0. Announcements

-Reminder: Assignment 2 due Thurs. **Add:** Native lg(s), other lg(s), how well.

1. Practice

-379; 381; 382; 384; 387; 388; 389; 390.

2. Sound change

Is it regular? Normally, yes. But there are attested cases of sporadic changes:

- (1) OE *brid* > *bird*; OE *hros* > *horse*; OE *wæps* > *wasp*.
- (2) *Glamour* < *grammar*.

Which processes are these?

Strategy: Assume, as a working hypothesis, that sound change is regular, and seek explanations in cases that appear not to be regular.

Why? At the time that Grimm's Law was discovered, there were known exceptions. One set of exceptions were the following (from Hock & Joseph 2007):

Note: *c* = /k/.

(3)	<i>Latin</i>	<i>Old English</i>	
	<i>captus</i>	<i>hæft</i>	'captured, prisoner'
	<i>piscis</i>	<i>fisc</i>	'fish'
	<i>spuō</i>	<i>spīwan</i>	'spew, spit'
	<i>stō</i>	<i>standan</i>	'stand'
(4)	<i>Latin</i>	<i>Gothic</i>	
	<i>est</i>	<i>ist</i>	'is'
	<i>noctis</i>	<i>noxts</i>	'night'

Is there a pattern to these exceptions?

2. Types of Sound Change

2.1 Assimilation: Change in which one sound becomes more like another.

Subtypes:

Total: One sound becomes identical to another.

Partial: One sound becomes more similar, but not identical, to another.

Contact: The two sounds are directly adjacent.

Distant: The two sounds are (or can be) separated by other sounds.

Regressive (anticipatory): Assimilation to a following sound.

Progressive: Assimilation to a preceding sound.

Examples:

(5) Total contact regressive

Lat. *octo* > Ital. *otto* 'eight', *nocte* > *notte* 'night', *factum* > *fatto* 'done'.

(6)

Icelandic **munθ* 'mouth' > *mun*, **gulθ* 'gold' > *gull*.

Finnish *ln* assimilated to *ll*, as in **falna* > *halla* 'frost'.

(7)

Nasal Place Assimilation: *in-possible* > *impossible*; O.E. *hænep* > *hemp*.

(8)

Basque *alte* 'side' > *alde*, *sentō* 'sturdy' > *sendo*.

(9)

Ger. *Gast* 'guest' [gast], pl. *Gäste* [gestə] < **gestiz* [gestiz] < **gastiz* [gastiz].

(10)

Latin **[peŋk^we]* > *[k^weŋk^we]* > *quīnque*.

2.2 Dissimilation: Change in which one sound becomes less like another.

(11) Early Modern High German *Tartoffel* ‘potato’ > *Kartoffel*.

(12) *Dahl’s Law* in several East African Bantu languages:

Two voiceless C’s in a word dissimilate so that the first becomes voiced.

E.g., in Kikuyu, *kikuyu* ‘Kikuyu’ > *gikuyu*.

(13) Multiple liquids are sporadically dissimilated in Romance:

Latin *peregrīnus* ‘foreigner, alien’ >

French *pèlerin* (English *pilgrim* is a loan from Old French *pelegrin*);

Italian *pellegrino* ‘foreigner, pilgrim, traveller’;

Spanish *peregrino*.

Italian *colonello* ‘colonel’; Spanish *coronelo*.

2.3 Lenition: Consonants often undergo lenition, or weakening, often between V’s.

C’s can be classified as stronger/weaker—in terms of articulatory effort—on various scales:

- (14) geminate > simplex
stop > fricative > approximant
stop > liquid
oral stop > glottal stop
non-nasal > nasal
voiceless > voiced

Types of lenition:

Degemination: Latin *cuppa* > Spanish *copa* ‘wine glass’.

Spirantization: Latin *habebat* ‘he had’ > Italian *aveva*.

Flapping: English *wa[t]er* > American English *wa[r]er*.

Glottalization: English *wa[t]er* > London, Glasgow *wa[ʔ]er*.

Nasalization: Latin *sabamu* ‘covering’ > Basque *zamau* ‘table-cloth’.

Voicing: Latin *lacu* ‘lake’ > Italian *lago*.

Deletion: PIE **porko-* ‘pig’ > Irish *orc*; Latin *regāle* > Spanish *real*.

Voicing+Spirantization: Latin *cūpa* ‘barrel’ > Spanish *cuba* [kuβa] ‘wine vat’.

2.4 Fortition: Consonants can also become **stronger**. Less frequent than lenition.

Gemination: Latin *aqua* [akwa] ‘water’ > Italian *acqua* [akkwa].

Latin *Maiu* ‘May’ [majū] > Italian *maggio* [maddʒo].

Pre-Basque **erur* ‘snow’ > western Basque *edur*.

Denasalization: Basque *musti* ‘moist’ > *busti*.

Devoicing: Russian *drug* ‘friend’ > *dru[k]*.

2.5 Common types of change

Palatalization: English *child* cf. German *Kind* ‘child’.

Velarization: Velarization of laterals in *walk* and *yolk*.

Nasalization: French *pain* ‘bread’ [pɛ̃].

Fusion: Combination of two segments into one. English *education*.

Segmentalization/unpacking: A single segment is split into two. English *music*.

Affrication.

Labialization.

Retroflexion.

Dentalization.

Rhotacism.

Lambdacism.

2.6 Vowel change

Raising/Lowering.

Fronting/Backing.

Rounding/Unrounding.

Lengthening/Shortening.

Centralization.

Diphthongization/Monophthongization (Southern English).

Stress & Reduction: *photograph*, *photography*, *photographic*.

2.7 Syllable structure related changes

CV syllables are universally preferred. Sequences of adjacent consonants (consonant clusters) or adjacent vowels (vowel hiatus) are often resolved through deletion or insertion of segments.

To resolve vowel hiatus:

Glide-insertion: Basque *buru-a* > *buru[w]a*.

Glide-formation: Basque *asto-a* > *ast[w]a*.

Coalescence: Basque *neska* + *-a* = *neska*.

Compensatory Lengthening: Pre-Hindi **satt* > *sa:t*.

2.8 Deletion

Apocope: Loss of a sound, usually a vowel, at the end of a word.
OE *sticca* > Mod. English: *stick*. Similarly: *sunu* > *son*.

Syncope: Loss of a vowel from the middle of a word.
Latin *pópulu-* ‘people’ > French *peuple* and Spanish *pueblo*.

Aphaeresis: Loss of a vowel from the beginning of a word.
English *scapegoat*: *scape* < *escape* + *goat*. English *till* < *until*.
Lat. *apoteca* ‘storehouse’ > Sp. *bodega* ‘wine cellar, storeroom.’

Haplology: Loss of one of two adjacent identical syllables.
Latin **nūtrītrīx* > *nūtrīx* ‘nurse’.

2.9 Insertion/Epenthesis

Prothesis: Insertion of a vowel at the beginning of a word.
Lat. *scola* [skóla] ‘school’ > OFr *escole* [eskole] > Fr *école*.
Latin: *speciālis* > Spanish *especial*.

Paragoge: Insertion of a vowel at the end of a word.
Arandic languages add a final schwa to words ending in C.

Anaptyxis: Insertion of a vowel between CC.
Athlete pronounced in some dialects with schwa between [θl].

Excrescence: Insertion of a consonant between CC.
Lat. *hominem* > *homne* > *homre* > Sp. *hombre*.
Lat. *fē:mina* > *fēmna* > *femra* > Sp. *hembra*.

Exercises (in class): From the textbook: 3.1, 3.3.

References

Hock, H. H. and B. Joseph. 1996. *Language history, language change and language relationship: an introduction to historical and comparative linguistics*. Berlin and New York: Mouton de Gruyter.

3. Sample Solution: Brule Spanish

Brule Spanish appears to have undergone the following changes from Standard American Spanish. Crucial orderings between rules are discussed below.

- (15) *V-Lowering* (e → æ / __ liquid)
Mid front V → low / __ liquid
- (16) *Glide Insertion* (∅ → y / u __ i)
∅ → palatal glide / high vowel __ high vowel
- (17) *d-Deletion* (d → ∅ EXCEPT # __)
Voiced alveolar stop → ∅ EXCEPT # __.
- (18) *Lateralization* (r → l / C __ or __ C)
Voiced alveolar flap → lateral approximant / C __ or __ C
- (19) *Word-initial a-Deletion* (a → ∅ / # __)
Back low vowel → ∅ / # __
- (20) *Syllable-final lenition* (s → h / __]_σ)
Voiceless alveolar fricative → glottal / __]_σ
- (21) *Lenition* (x → h)
Voiceless velar fricative → glottal
- (22) *Final r-deletion* (r → ∅ / a __)
Alveolar approximant → ∅ / low back vowel __

Crucial orderings:

Glide Insertion crucially applies **before** *d-Deletion*, as (39), *rodiya* → *ruiya*, shows. *Non-initial d-deletion* creates vowel hiatus, but *Glide Insertion* does not apply in this case. Compare (40), *oir* → *ujir*, in which *Glide Insertion* does apply.

d-Deletion crucially applies **before** *Lateralization* since in (17), *padre* → *pare*. If *Liquid Lateralization* applied first, we would expect #*pale*.

d-Deletion crucially applies **before** *Word-initial a-Deletion*, since in (20), *adonde* → *one*. If *a* were to instead delete first, then the *d* would be predicted to be preserved.